



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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El Salvadorian pleads guilty to **sexually abusing daughter**

Washington, D.C. – A 43-year-old native of El Salvador (whose name is being withheld to protect the identity of his daughter) has pled guilty to sexually abusing his daughter, U.S. Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein announced today.

The defendant pleaded guilty today in D.C. Superior Court before the Honorable Erik Christian to one count of Child Sexual Abuse. The defendant faces a sentence of up to 30 years of incarceration, but will likely be sentenced pursuant to the Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines, which recommend a sentence of up to 15 years. Upon his release, the defendant will also have to register as a sexual offender for the rest of his life.

According to the government's evidence, the defendant began sexually abusing his daughter in El Salvador when she was just eight years-old. The victim subsequently came to the United States where she resided with relatives in the Fourth District of Washington, D.C. (PSA 404). Two years after her arrival, her relatives brought the defendant to the United States believing it would be good for the victim to be with her father. Unbeknownst to the relatives, the father began sexually abusing the victim again. Although the victim told a schoolmate about the abuse, the schoolmate did not disclose the abuse to an adult. Eventually, the victim (who was now 13 years old) wrote a letter

detailing the sexual abuse and left it for her relatives. A male relative confronted the defendant with a copy of the letter and the defendant admitted the sexual abuse. Relatives contacted police and a warrant was issued for the arrest of the defendant. The defendant, however, had fled the jurisdiction. Approximately ten months later, he was apprehended in Tennessee, arrested by the U.S. Marshals, extradited to the District of Columbia and indicted on several counts of First Degree Child Sexual Abuse.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Wainstein praised the work of lead Detective Frank Santiago of the Youth Investigations Branch of the Metropolitan Police Department. He also commended U.S. Marshals Joseph Deluca and Roger Wilson who tracked the defendant to Tennessee and Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Kent of Tennessee who assisted in extraditing the defendant to the District of Columbia. U.S. Attorney Wainstein also thanked Victim Advocate Iris Vega, Spanish Interpreter Raquel Felsenstein, Legal Assistant Donice Adams and Paralegal Joyce Arthur, all of whom provided invaluable assistance in preparing the case for prosecution. Lastly, U.S. Attorney Wainstein praised Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimya Jones, who investigated and indicted the case and handled the plea agreement.

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